(a) whether it is a fact that annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product during 2008-09 is estimated to be around 5.8 per cent;

(b) if not, the facts thereof and whether it is also a fact that increase in expenditure incurred by public sector has led to increase in above growth rate;

(c) if so, the increase in Government expenditure in 2008-09 against the one in 2007-08; and

(d) the percentage of increase in expenditure made by private sector during 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at constant (1999-2000) prices during 2008-09 is estimated to be 6.7 percent as per the Revised Estimates of Annual National Income released by the Central Statistical Organization on May 29th, 2009 . This growth rate of GDP is largely contributed by high growth rate of 13.1 percent in 'community, social and personal services sector' which includes public administration and defence.

(c) As per the Union Budget, 2009-10, the Central Government expenditure increased from Rs. 712671 crores in the year 2007-08 to Rs. 900953 crores (Revised Estimates) in the year 2008-09 accounting for 26.4 percent increase.

(d) As per the Revised Estimates of Annual National Income released by the Central Statistical Organization on May 29th, 2009, the private final consumption expenditure (at current prices) in 2008-09 was 12.2% higher than that in 2007-08.

Wages of Safai Karamcharis

†2191. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for Safai Karamcharis has acknowledged that safai workers and employees are getting very low wages;

(b) whether this commission has recommended to enhance their wages; and

(c) whether Government is agree thereto and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) had recommended fixing and payment of minimum wages to Safai Karamcharis.

(c) The Central Government *vide* notification dated 7th August, 2008 has fixed the minimum rates of wages per day payable to the employees engaged in Employment of sweeping and cleaning excluding activities prohibited under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993. The basic rates of minimum wages notified for "A", "B" and "C" areas are Rs. 180/-, Rs. 150/- and Rs. 120/- per day respectively.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.